



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date: March 11, 2014****Contact: Chris Pence**
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CROW WING COUNTY RELEASES 2013 WATER PROTECTION REPORT

As part of Crow Wing County's ongoing commitment to protecting, preserving, and improving water resources, the Land Services Department has released its 2013 Water Protection Report. This annual report details County actions to address the priority concerns identified in the County's Water Plan including aquatic invasive species, ground water, and surface water protection.

In 2013 the County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised Water Plan which is based upon a first of its kind watershed- based protection model. This model allows for identification of local priority water resource concerns. After identification, action plans and data-driven strategies are created and specifically tailored for each of the 125 minor and 5 major watersheds found in the County. County Board Chair Commissioner Rosemary Franzen stated "As policy makers, the data-based approach contained in our Water Plan is key to ensuring we make the right investments of taxpayer dollars in the protection of our water resources."

According to the report, water protection outcomes achieved by the County Land Services Department in 2013 include:

- Conducted approximately 3500-4000 watercraft inspections for aquatic invasive species in partnership with local lake associations and the DNR on 17 area lakes, resulting in the prevention of zebra mussels from entering Lake Hubert and Bay Lake.
- Preserved or restored over ½ mile of shoreline within the County through 30 shoreline buffer and stabilization projects.
- Prevented 9 pounds of phosphorous from entering area lakes through implementation of 36 stormwater plans. One pound of phosphorous equals approximately 300 pounds of algae.
- Conducted 688 septic system compliance inspections, with over a 95% compliance rate.

Both the 2013 Water Protection Report and the Crow Wing County Local Comprehensive Water Plan can be viewed online at: <http://www.crowwing.us> search for "water and wetlands."

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to discuss water planning or other land use questions.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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